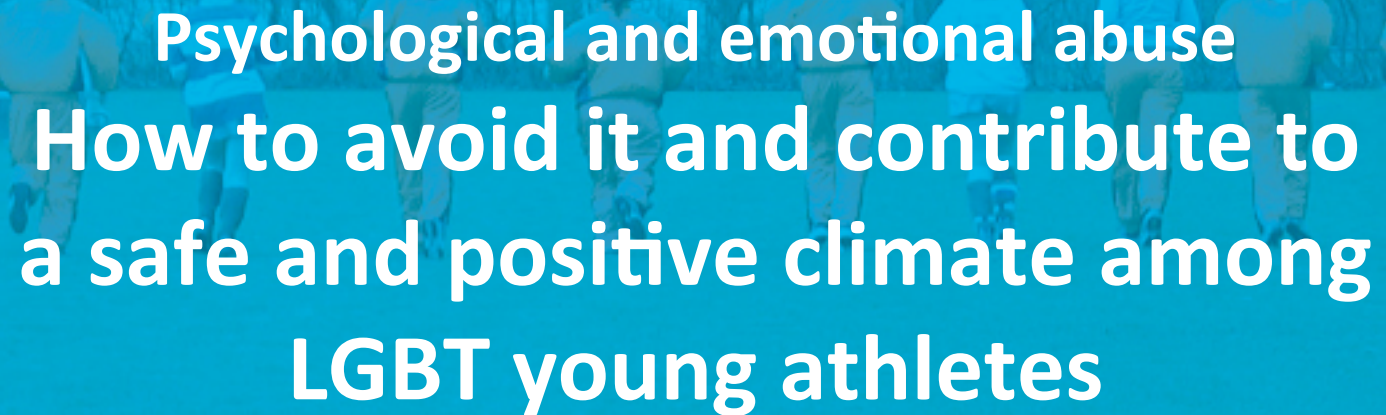


The logo for Mulier Instituut, featuring a stylized yellow and orange swoosh above the text.

**mulier instituut**

A photograph of a group of runners in a forest, overlaid with a blue tint. The runners are seen from behind, moving away from the camera.

**Psychological and emotional abuse  
How to avoid it and contribute to  
a safe and positive climate among  
LGBT young athletes**

Froukje Smits  
Agnes Elling

# LGBT youth in the Netherlands

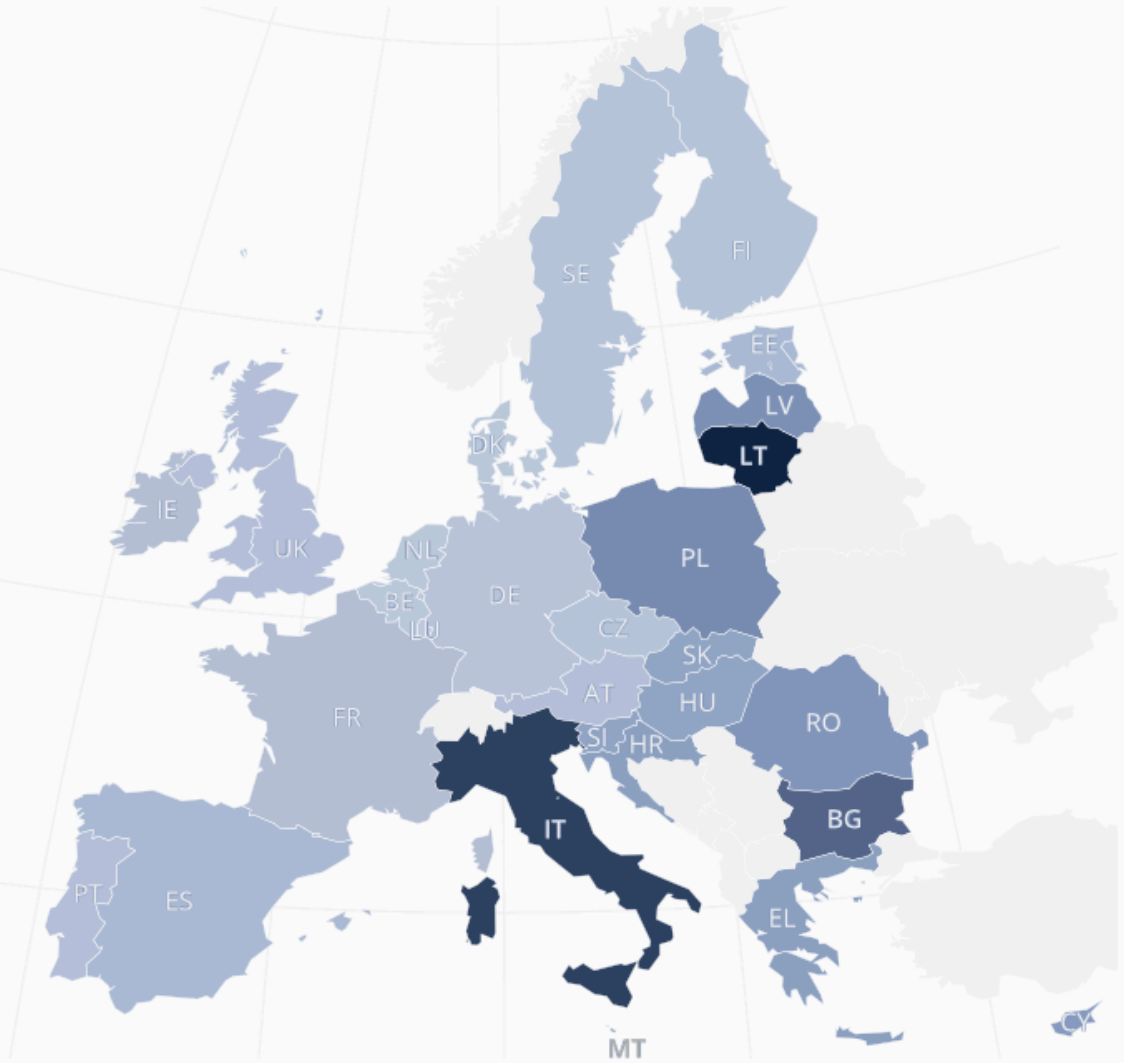
- Sexual orientation -> sexual identity
- Dutch LGB teenagers still face deficiencies in various areas; can have a significant influence on their wellbeing.

## This presentation:

- Situation in (grassroots/ elite) sports
- Sports policy/ toolbox / action projects

# LGBT NL/ EU:

In your opinion, how widespread is offensive language about lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people by politicians in the country where you live? ‡



# 'Sexual diversity in sports'

## Quantitative (online questionnaires)

- homo/bisexual self-identified men (n=281) and women (n=193)
- Sport participants, Dutch population 15+ (n=1.110)



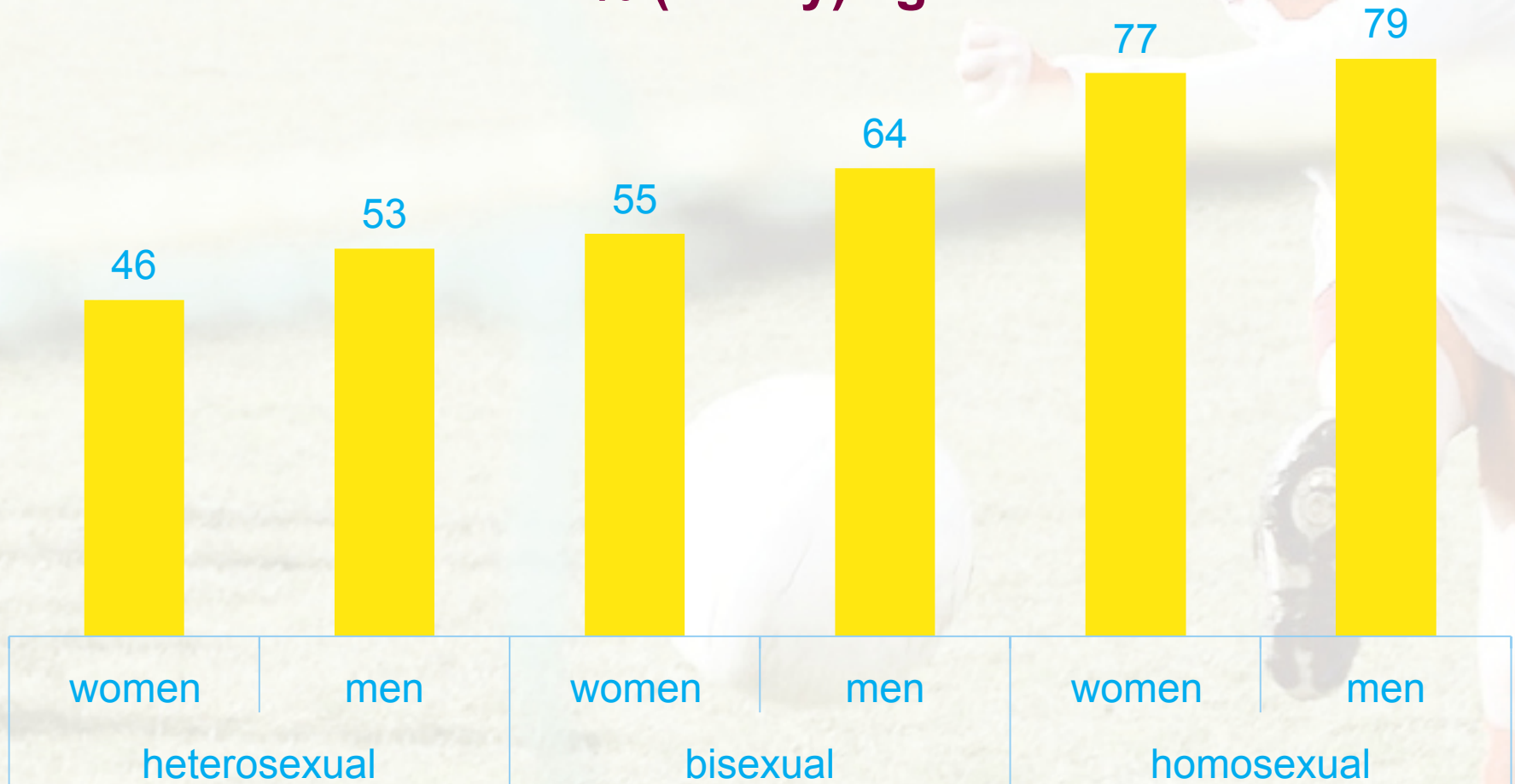
### Seksuele diversiteit in de sport:

sportdeelname en acceptatie

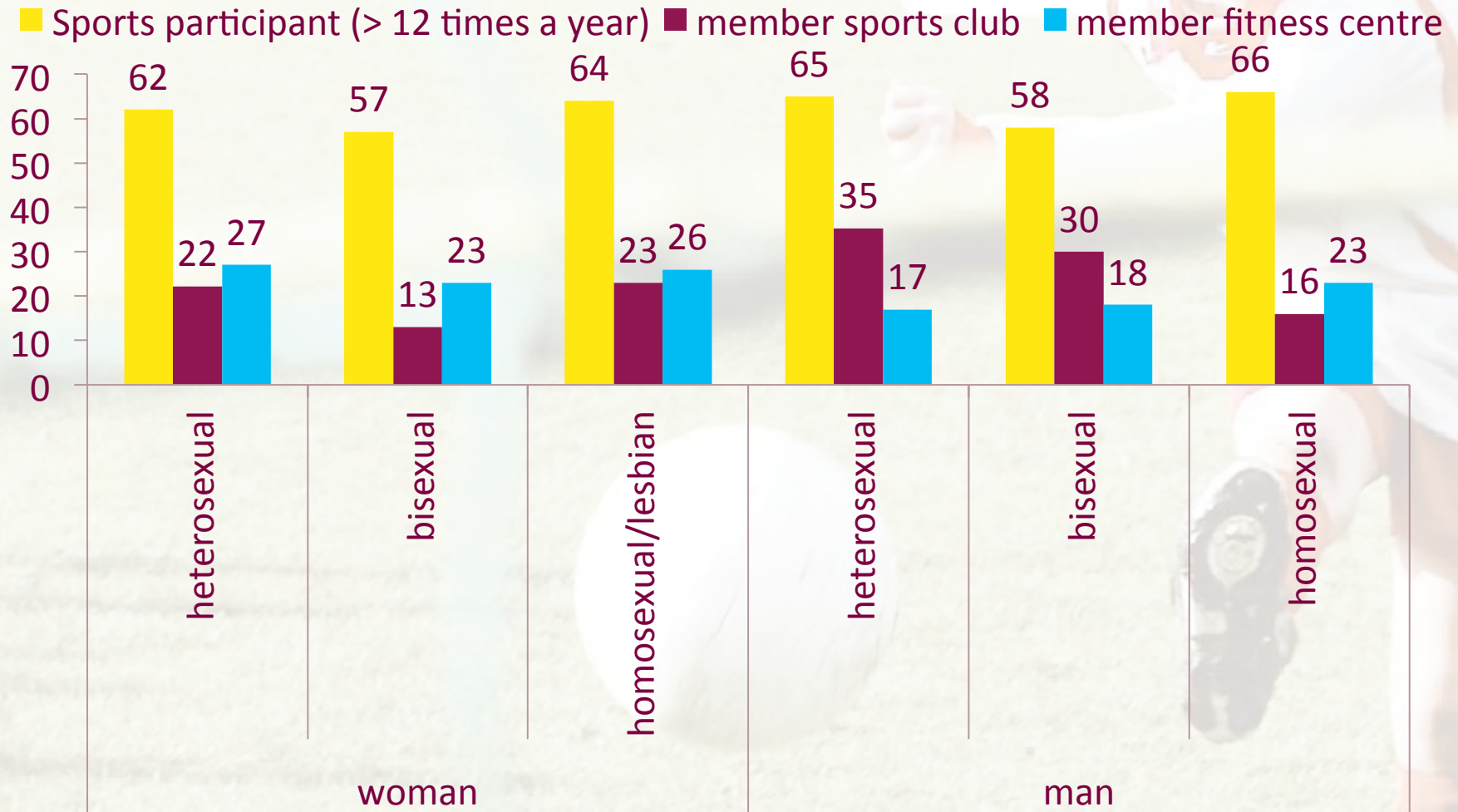
Agnes Elling  
Froukje Smits  
Paul Hoyer  
Janine van Kalmthout

Mulier Instituut

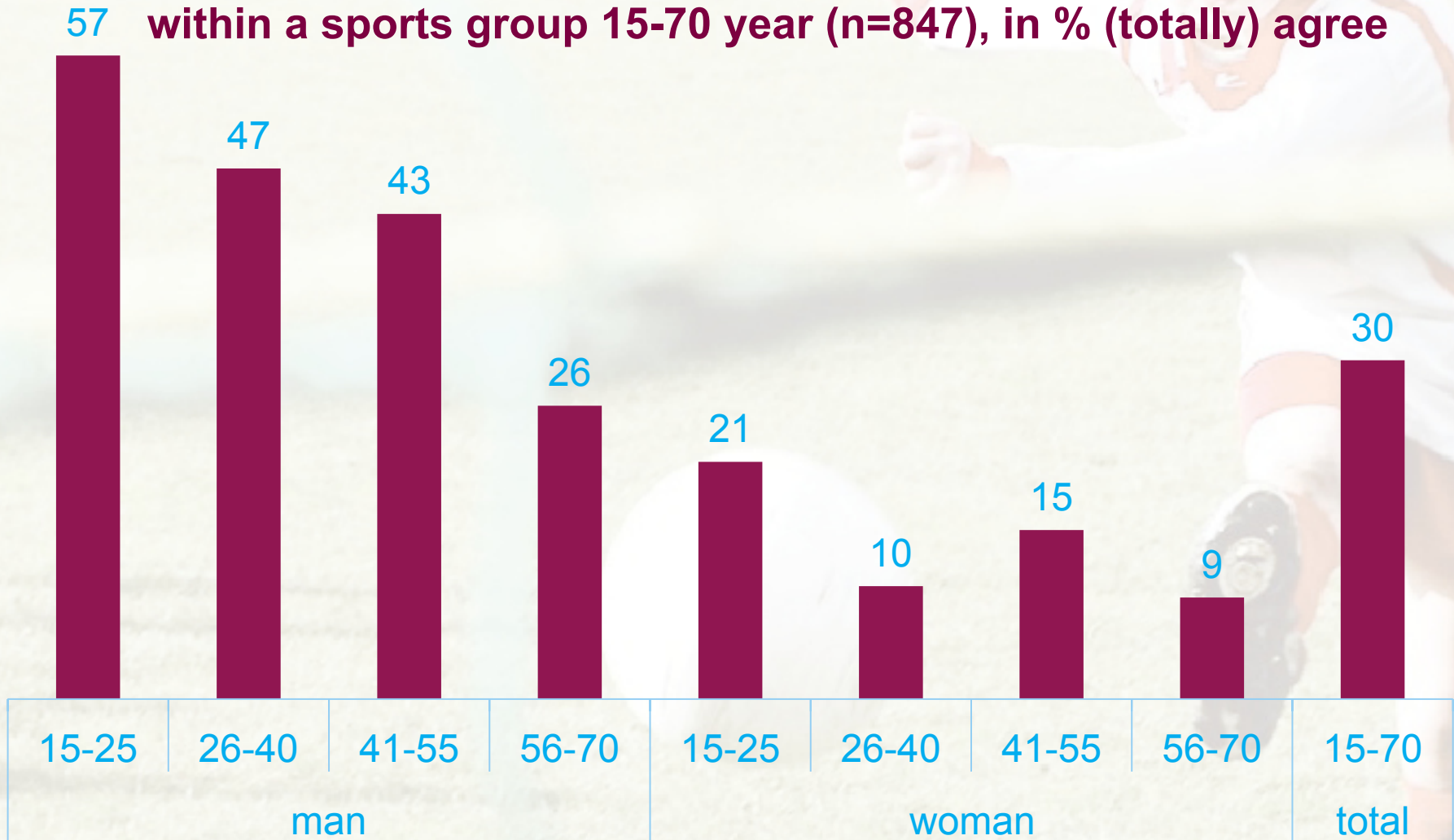
# 'In competitive club sport, male homosexuality is still a big taboo', by gender and sexuality, in % (totally) agree



# Sports participation, by gender and sexuality (%)



**‘In my sport group it is not uncommon that jokes or remarks are made about homosexuals’, Dutch population active within a sports group 15-70 year (n=847), in % (totally) agree**



## Qualitative (ethnographical: logbook reports)

- Active male team members from 'mainstream' sports clubs
- 7 heterosexuals / 4 homosexuals
- Between 15-25 years old
- 130 observations within 6 different team sports: handball (1), baseball (1), hockey (1), netball (1) (elite), rugby (1), football (5).



# 'Sporting culture'

- *"The trainer enters, with the words: 'OK you queers'"*
- *"Look at the way you chase the ball, what a queer!"*
- *"'Are you off to the shower Hessel? Then I'll wait a bit.' Laughing, and then 'Ha ha, no, I actually enjoy being in the shower with you ... pick up the shampoo bottle will you?'"*

# Borderline cases on the (pink) edge

- Failing/ weakling/ give up
- *“When an opponent lay on the ground after being fouled, players said: ‘Come on fag, get up.’”*
- Interpretation: *“you queer”*
- *Discourage/ punish, despite ‘sporting culture’?!*

# Serious questions and discussions

*“I can sometimes break the ice with a witty comment if it’s about my homosexuality, but sometimes I have my doubts about what I can and cannot say. What they consider totally unacceptable is when I start talking about how attractive a certain man is. I need to hold myself in check sometimes so that I don’t react too quickly when they start talking about women in macho terms. It’s at times like these that I feel like making a comment about men, but I think better of it.”*

# “If you just act normally...”

- *“He’s become such a gay boy, really dirty, bah”*
- Powerlessness
- *“What’s the difference between a chef and a queer? They both stir around in yesterday’s meal.”*
- Affect personally, fear
- *‘Are you going to the a gay bar tonight ? Getting fucked in the arse!’*

# Summary

- Male team sports can no longer be characterised as absolutely homophobic
- Queer = nickname
- Homophobia -> homonegativity
- Reproduction of gender- and heteronormativity in sport



Policy to increase awareness-raising with respect to LGBT acceptance and combating homonegativity and hetero- and gender-normativity in sport.

# Grassroots sports Toolbox

- NOC\*NSF “What can I do?”
  1. Set a good example
  2. Adopt LGBT in club-policy/ guidelines
  3. Carry it out
  4. Correct others



# Grassroots sports Toolbox

- KNVB (Royal Netherlands Football Association)

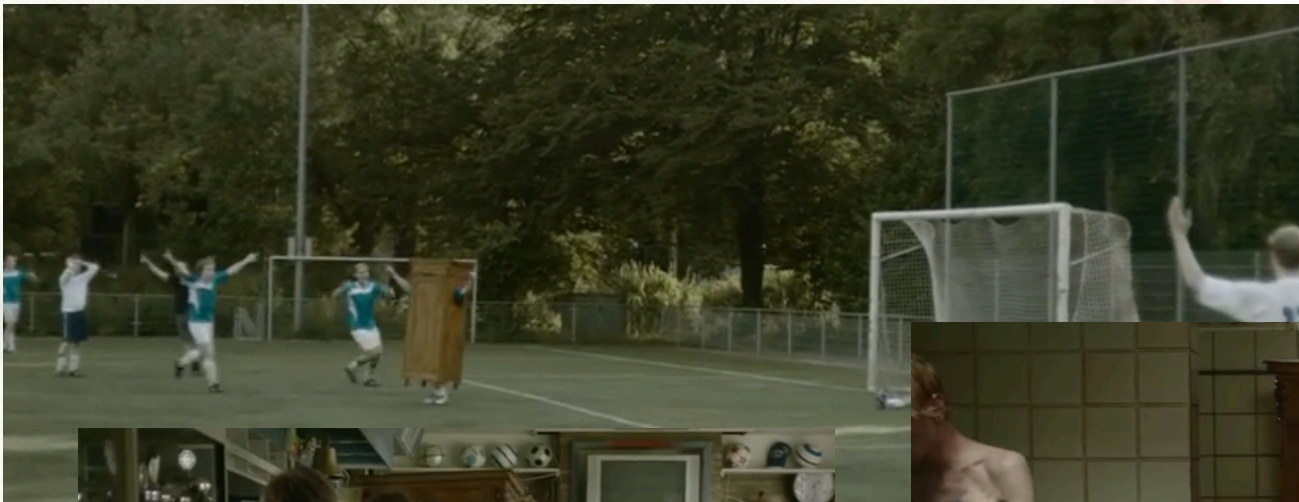
**GAY? THERE'S NOTHING  
QUEER ABOUT IT.**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGQIExO3uTU>

# Grassroots sports Toolbox

- KNVB (Royal Netherlands Football Association)





# Grassroots sports Toolbox

- KNVB (Royal Netherlands Football Association)



**WHY NOT STEP OUT OF THE CLOSET?**



**YOUR TEAM IS ON YOUR SIDE.**

# Grassroots sports Toolbox

- KNVB (Royal Netherlands Football Association)



- <http://bin617-02.website-voetbal.nl/sites/voetbal.nl/files/Football%20for%20everyone%20action%20plan.pdf>

# Elite sports

Different?

- Sport environment more important
- Quitting -> hiding
- Public personality/ sports celebrity



# Elite sports

A video player interface showing a man speaking. The video has a 'kro' logo in the top left and an 'npo' logo in the top right. The subtitles at the bottom of the video frame read: "Vooral in de profsport. Daarom komen er zo weinig uit de kast." The video player controls at the bottom include a play button, a progress bar, a volume icon, and a timestamp of 00:49,12.

kro

npo

Vooral in de profsport.  
Daarom komen er zo weinig uit de kast.

00:49,12



# Elite Sports Toolbox (KNVB)



## Educate:

- The KNVB offers a training package for stewards involved in Dutch professional football organisations.
- Certification criteria for youth training courses in professional football clubs

# Elite Sports Toolbox (KNVB)



## Inform:

- Developing and offering a workshop on promoting the acceptance of homosexuality in professional football clubs.
- Explicitly on the agenda of all existing meetings with supporters' associations and supporters' coordinators of professional football clubs.

# Elite Sports Toolbox (KNVB)

## Support:

- Appointing a confidential advisor to all the KNVB district offices and at the headquarters in Zeist to support amateur and professional football clubs on the issue of the acceptance of homosexuality.



# Elite Sports Toolbox (KNVB)

## Maintain:

- The KNVB is refining the “Guideline for tackling verbal violence” with regard to the acceptance of homosexuality. The guideline will be refined to indicate that the KNVB will not accept any offensive or insulting crowd chants based on sexual preference, any more than it accepts other types of insulting or offensive crowd chants.
- KNVB examines whether the acceptance of homosexuality can be explicitly included in the KNVB standard terms and conditions for professional football.





# Discussion

Worlcup 2014  
19-6-2014

## Brazil face action for fans' 'homophobic' chants

PUBLISHED 19/06/2014 | 09:14



SHARE



*In the firing line: Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa was allegedly targeted by supporters*

# Discussion

## FIFA says it's OK to chant gay slur at World Cup

By Cyd Zeigler  @CydZeigler on Jun 23 2014, 10:28a 14



Winslow Townson-USA TODAY Sports

*FIFA claims 'puto' is not a gay slur in the context of trying to insult a player on another team. Mexican fans are free to chant the slur through the rest of the World Cup.*



## At its core, 'puto' is homophobic

By Jim Buzinski  @outsports on Jul 1 2014, 10:34a +



Laurence Griffiths

*A Mexican journalist says the chant, heard at the World Cup, is not innocent and reflects a "deeply rooted homophobia" in Mexico.*

 18 UPDATES

# Discussion

- Apparently, 'queer' / 'poof' is strongly embedded in the regular everyday speech and culture of young male team sports players (research)...
- Is it maintainable (FIFA)???

What is the best solution in elite sports?

How to combat/ or not...?! Policy??

Hartelijk dank  
voor uw aandacht!



**mulier instituut**



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